

1
2
3
4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
5 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

6
7 TAMMY MICHELLE FRANCHIA,

8 Plaintiff,

9 v.

10 COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

11 Defendant.

Case No.: 2:20-cv-01244-NJK

ORDER

12 This case involves judicial review of administrative action by the Commissioner of Social
13 Security, denying Plaintiff's claim for Social Security benefits. The Court recognizes that many
14 of these cases have a number of factors in common:

15 1. Such cases rarely, if ever, require proceedings in the nature of a trial. Instead, these
16 cases are usually resolved by cross-motions to reverse or remand and to affirm the Commissioner's
17 decision.

18 2. Sometimes the plaintiff submits new medical reports to the court in support of a
19 request for remand at such a late date in the proceedings as to cause an unnecessary and undesirable
20 delay in the rendering of a decision by the court.

21 3. The transcript of the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing frequently
22 contains the words "inaudible" or "unintelligible" in some places, and the administrative record
23 sometimes contains documents which are illegible. These parts of the administrative record may
24 or may not relate to the question of whether the Commissioner's decision is supported by
25 substantial evidence.

26 **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:**

27 1. Defendant shall submit an electronic courtesy copy of the administrative record,
28 under seal, to CM/ECF within seven (7) days of the filing of this Order. The courtesy copy shall

1 be filed in a searchable PDF format with each exhibit linked separately and Optical Character
2 Recognition performed.

3 2. In the event Plaintiff intends to request a remand of this case on the basis of new
4 medical evidence, Plaintiff shall, within thirty (30) days of the filing of this Order, file a motion to
5 remand in this Court based on new evidence. The new evidence shall be attached to the motion.
6 A copy of the motion and medical evidence shall be served on:

7 United States Attorney
8 501 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Suite 1100
9 Las Vegas, NV 89101

10 3. In the event Plaintiff files a motion for remand on the basis of new evidence,
11 Defendant shall have thirty (30) days from the date of service of such motion to file either a notice
12 of voluntary remand of the case or points and authorities in opposition to Plaintiff's motion. If
13 Defendant files points and authorities in opposition, Plaintiff shall have twenty (20) days from the
14 date of service of such points and authorities to file a reply.

15 4. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), remand for reconsideration of new evidence will
16 not be granted unless the evidence is new and material and there is a showing of good cause for
17 failure to incorporate the evidence into the record at an earlier stage. Therefore, if Plaintiff seeks
18 remand for consideration of new evidence, the motion shall include a statement of reasons why
19 the new evidence was not incorporated into the record at an earlier stage.

20 5. In the event Plaintiff does not file a motion to remand on the basis of new medical
21 evidence, Plaintiff shall, within thirty (30) days of this Order, file with this court a motion for
22 reversal and/or remand.

23 6. Whenever Plaintiff files a motion for reversal and/or remand, which includes issues
24 based on the administrative record, Plaintiff's motion shall include:

25 a. A specification of each and every condition or ailment, or combination
26 thereof, that allegedly renders Plaintiff disabled and is allegedly supported by evidence
27 contained in the administrative record.

28 b. A complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that supports
29 Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 6a

1 above, with precise references to the applicable portions of the record. This summary shall
2 not include medical evidence unrelated to the conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's
3 claim or claims of disability are based. It shall be sufficient compliance with this
4 subparagraph if Plaintiff shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and
5 accurately summarized the evidence contained in the administrative record.

6 c. A complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that supports
7 Plaintiff's claim of disability due to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 6a
8 above, with precise references to the applicable portions of the record. This summary shall
9 not include medical evidence unrelated to the conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's
10 claim or claims of disability are based. It shall be sufficient compliance with this
11 subparagraph if Plaintiff shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and
12 accurately summarized the evidence adduced at the administrative hearing.

13 d. With respect to each condition or ailment specified in subparagraph 5a
14 above, a complete but concise statement as to why the record does not contain substantial
15 evidence to support Defendant's conclusion that Plaintiff is not disabled by each such
16 condition or ailment, or combination thereof.

17 7. If Defendant has not filed a notice of voluntary remand and the issues in question
18 relate to the administrative record, Defendant, within thirty (30) days after being served with
19 Plaintiff's motion for reversal and/or remand, shall file a cross-motion to affirm which will be
20 considered an opposition to Plaintiff's motion. This motion shall include:

21 a. With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff,
22 a complete summary of all medical evidence in the record that Defendant contends
23 constitutes substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that Plaintiff
24 is not entitled to the benefits in question. This summary shall not include medical
25 evidence unrelated to conditions or ailments upon which Plaintiff's claim or claims of
26 disability are based. It shall be sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if Defendant
27 shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and accurately summarized the
28 evidence contained in the record.

b. With respect to each disabling condition or ailment specified by Plaintiff, a complete summary of all testimony adduced at the administrative hearing, including the Administrative Law Judge's findings, if any, concerning the credibility of witnesses, which Defendant contends constitutes substantial evidence to support the administrative determination that Plaintiff is not entitled to the benefits in question. It shall be sufficient compliance with this subparagraph if Defendant shall stipulate that the Administrative Law Judge fairly and accurately summarized the testimony adduced at the administrative hearing.

c. A statement as to whether there are any inaccuracies in the summaries filed by Plaintiff. If Defendant believes Plaintiff's summaries are inaccurate, Defendant shall set forth what additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the record) in order to make the summaries accurate.

d. The lay definitions of all medical terms contained in the record necessary to be understood in order to determine whether Defendant's decision is supported by substantial evidence.

8. The motions filed by Plaintiff and Defendant pursuant to paragraphs 6 and 7 of this Order, respectively, shall also contain appropriate points and authorities dealing with the specific legal issues involved in this case, rather than principles of law applicable to Social Security cases in general.

9. Plaintiff shall be deemed to have acceded to the accuracy of the summaries supplied by Defendant in response to subparagraphs 7a and 7b of this Order, and to all definitions of medical terms supplied by Defendant with respect to subparagraph 7d of this Order, unless within twenty (20) days after being served with Defendant's motion to affirm Plaintiff shall file and serve a document setting forth:

- a. In what manner the summaries are inaccurate;
- b. What additions or corrections are required (with appropriate references to the record) in order to make the summaries accurate; and/or

c. Any definitions of the medical terms that Plaintiff contends are more accurate than the definitions supplied by Defendant.

10. The motions filed by both Plaintiff and Defendant shall also contain the following:

a. A statement as to whether the transcript of the administrative hearing can be adequately comprehended in spite of the fact that such transcript may contain the words "inaudible" or "unintelligible" in one or more places, and specifying each page, if any, in which testimony relating to the particular issues of this case cannot be adequately comprehended.

b. A specification of each page in the administrative record that is partially or totally illegible, and a statement as to whether each such illegible page contains information relevant to an understanding of any issue presented in this case.

11. Oral argument shall be deemed waived and the case shall stand submitted unless argument is ordered by the Court or requested, pursuant to Local Rule 78-1, by one of the parties within ten (10) days following the filing of the last document required by this Court. Even if one or both of the parties requests oral argument, the final decision as to whether oral argument is warranted remains with the Court.

12. Failure of a party to file a motion or points and authorities required by this Order may result in dismissal of the action or reversal of the decision of the Commissioner of Social Security.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 19, 2021

Nancy J. Koppe
United States Magistrate Judge